

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

AF-06 ARA-06 NEA-09 /129 W
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R 251710Z MAR 75

FM US MISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1650

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

US OECD PARIS 7740

USEC BRUSSELS 4456

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD, AS

SUBJECT: GATT COUNCIL DISCUSSION AUSTRALIAN TARIFF QUOTAS

REF: STATE 64708

1. SUMMARY. AUSTRALIAN TQS ON TEXTILES CAME UNDER HEAVY FIRE IN COUNCIL. MANY MEMBERS SAID MFA WAS PROPER FRAMEWORK FOR CONSIDERATION OF MATTER. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING MARCH 24 GATT COUNCIL, JAPAN EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT MORE AUSTRALIAN TQS ARE COMING ON WIDE RANGE OF TEXTILES, SAID THOSE ALREADY TAKEN FRUSTRATE OBJECTIVES OF MFA AND CAME WITHIN THE PROVISIONS OF MFA ART. 9, ASKED AUSTRALIA RECONSIDER ACTIONS IN LIGHT OF LETTER AND SPIRIT OF MFA, AND RESERVED RIGHT PURSUE MATTER IN CONTEXT MFA PROCEDURES. US AGREED WITH JAPAN STATEMENT, SAID ALL AUSTRALIAN TQS (NOT ONLY THOSE NOTIFIED TO GATT UNDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ART. IXI) JEOPARDIZE MTN LIBERALIZATION EFFORTS AND

APPEAR COMPLETELY INCONSISTENT WITH PURPOSES OF MFA,
SAID ALL AUSTRALIAN TEXTILE TQ MEASURES FALL WITHIN
PURVIEW OF MFA AND SHOULD BE EXAMINED BY THE TSB AND TC
UNDER PROVISIONS OF MFA ART. 9:1. HONG KONG SUPPORTED
U.S. AND JAPANESE VIEWS, "ESPECIALLY US VIEW ON
PROCEEDING WITH EXAMINATIONS UNDER PROVISIONS OF MFA."
KOREA SAID MFA PROVIDES ADEQUATE FRAMEWORK FOR PROTECTIVE
ACTIONS UNDER MFA ARTS. 3 AND 4, MFA RULES SHOULD
REIGN, AND THAT OBJECTIVES OF MFA WERE NULLIFIED BY
SUCH ACTIONS TAKEN OUTSIDE. INDIA AGREED MFA SHOULD
REIGN, URGED AUSTRALIA RECONSIDER. SWEDEN "SHARED
CONCERN OF OTHER SPEAKERS." EC SAID CONSULTATIONS
SHOULD BE PURSUED UNDER ART. 9:2 TO ENSURE MFA NOT
ENDANGERED, THERE ARE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR MTN IN
AUSTRALIAN TEXTILE ACTIONS, TSB SHOULD CONSIDER ISSUE
AND REPORT TO TEXTILES COMMITTEE, "BUT IF IT WERE
PROPOSED TO HAVE A PARALLEL STUDY IN THE GATT, WE WOULD
NOT OPPOSE." ROMANIA SAID SPECIAL TRADE ARRANGEMENTS
(SUCH AS MFA) SHOULD TAKE PRIORITY OVER GENERAL GATT
PROCEDURES. SWITZERLAND, SINGAPORE, EGYPT, PAKISTAN
ALSO AGREED ON JURISDICTION OF MFA AND NEED TO CONSULT
WITH AUSTRALIA UNDER MFA ART. 9.

3. CANADA SAID MFA PRESERVES GATT RIGHTS, BOTH ART. XIX
OF GATT AND 9:2 OF MFA PROVIDE FIRST OPPORTUNITY CONSULT--
FOLLOWED IF NECESSARY BY RECOURSE TO OTHER PROVISIONS
OF GATT OR ART. 9:3 OF MFA. SAID NETIERH GATT OR TSB
SHOULD EXAMINE UNLESS SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO THEM BY
COUNTRIES AFFECTED. (CANADIAN CAUTION DICTATED BY NEED
PROTECT THEIR CONTENTION THAT RECENT CANADIAN ART. XIX
ACTION ON SHIRTS WAS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH LETTER OF
MFA, WHICH OF COURSE ALSO PROTECTS "GATT RIGHTS" OF
PARTICIPANTS.)

4. AUSTRALIA CITED IMPORT GROWTH, UNEMPLOYMENT, THEIR
"CAREFUL ASSESSMENT OF OBLIGATIONS UNDER GATT AND
MFA," AGREED WITH CANADA ON RELATION GATT TO MFA,
SAID THEY UNABLE PREDICT OUTCOME OF INQUIRIES ON OTHER
TEXTILE ITEMS. COUNCIL TOOK NOTE OF DISCUSSIONS AND
REFERRED SUBJECT TO NEXT SESSION.DALE
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Message Attributes

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